

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and remarks contained herein in response to the Office Action mailed December 21, 2004. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 19 remain pending. In particular, Applicants amend claims 1 – 19. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested. In addition, Applicants do not intend to make any admissions regarding any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly referenced in this response.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants first wish to express his sincere appreciation for the time that Examiner Truong spent with Applicants' Attorney, Anthony Bonner during a telephone discussion on February 22, 2005 regarding the outstanding Office Action. During that conversation, Examiner Truong seemed to indicate that it would be potentially beneficial for Applicants to make amendments contained herein. More specifically, Examiner Truong seemed to indicate that adding the word "unique" in front of "reference identifier (ID)" could be beneficial. However, to more fully expedite prosecution, Applicants have more clearly defined systems and methods "at a user location." Thus, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner Truong carefully consider this response and the amendments.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practice application producing a concrete, useful and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101. In response, Applicants amend claims 1, 6, and 11 to more clearly indicate systems and methods that “process by a computing device.” Applicants believe that these amendments conform with 35 U.S.C. §101, and respectfully requests that this rejection be removed.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. *See, e.g., W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

A. Claim 1 is Patentable Over Knauerhase

The Office Action indicates that claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. publication number to Knauerhase (“*Knauerhase*”). In response, Applicants amend claim 1 to more fully clarify patentable features of claim 1 over *Knauerhase*. More specifically, claim 1, as amended recites:

A method processed by a computing device *at a user location*, comprising the steps of:
receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact;

receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, an email address of a contact;
receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, a reference identifier (ID) from the user, the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact;
correlating, *by the computing device at the user location*, the IM address to the reference identifier and
correlating, *by the computing device at the user location* the email address to the reference identifier (ID).

Applicants assert that *Knauerhase* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “A method processed by a computing device *at a user location*, comprising the steps of... ..
receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, an instant messaging (IM) address... receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, an email address...
receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, a reference identifier (ID) from the user, the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact...
correlating, *by the computing device at the user location*, the IM address... and
correlating, *by the computing device at the user location*, the email address...” as recited in claim 1, as amended. For at least this reason, claim 1, as amended is patentable over *Knauerhase*.

B. Claims 2 – 5 are Patentable Over *Knauerhase*

In addition, dependent claims 2 – 5 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In order for a claim to be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, the teachings of the prior art reference must suggest all features of the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. *See, e.g., In re Dow Chemical*, 837 F.2d 469, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 U.S.P.Q. 871, 881 (C.C.P.A. 1981). Further, “[t]he PTO has the burden under section 103 to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It can satisfy this burden only by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or that knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would lead that individual to combine the relevant teachings of the references.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

A. Claims 6 is Patentable Over *Knauerhase* in View of *Donovan*

The Office Action indicates that claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knauerhase* in view of U.S. publication number 2004/0193722 to Donovan (“*Donovan*”). In response, Applicants amend claim 6, to more clearly define patentable subject matter over *Knauerhase*. More specifically, claim 6, as amended recites:

A method processed by a computing device *at a user location*, comprising the steps of:

receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol;

receiving, *by the computing device at the user location*, a reference identifier (ID) from the user, the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact; and

correlating, *by the computing device at the user location*, each of the multiple IM addresses to the reference identifier (ID).

Applicants assert that *Knauerhase* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “A method processed by a computing device **at a user location**, comprising the steps of... receiving, **by the computing device at the user location**, user input... receiving, **by the computing device at the user location**, a reference identifier (ID) **from the user**... [and] correlating, **by the computing device at the user location**, each of the multiple IM addresses” as recited in claim 6, as amended. For at least this reason, claim 6, as amended is patentable over *Knauerhase*.

In addition, *Donovan* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “A method processed by a computing device **at a user location**, comprising the steps of... receiving a reference identifier (ID) **from the user**, the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact; and correlating each of the multiple IM addresses to the reference identifier (ID) **at the user location**” as recited in claim 6, as amended. For at least this reason, claim 6, as amended is patentable over *Donovan*.

B. Claim 11 is Patentable Over *Knauerhase* in View of *Donovan*

The Office Action indicates that claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knauerhase* in view of U.S. publication number 2004/0193722 to Donovan (“*Donovan*”). In response, Applicants amend claim 11, to more clearly define patentable subject matter over *Knauerhase*. More specifically, claim 11, as amended recites:

A system processed by a computing device at a user location comprising:
first receive logic, **processed by a computing device at a user location**, and configured to receive first user input, the first user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol;

second receive logic, *processed by the computing device at the user location*, and configured to receive second user input, the second user input comprising a reference identifier (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact; and

correlate logic, *processed by the computing device at the user location*, and configured to correlate each of the multiple IM addresses to a reference identifier (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact.

Applicants assert that *Knauerhase* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest “A system processed by a computing device *at a user location* comprising... first receive logic, *processed by a computing device at a user location*, and configured to receive first user input... second receive logic second receive logic, *processed by the computing device at the user location*, and configured to receive second user input, the *second user input comprising a reference identifier (ID)*, the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact and... correlate logic, *processed by the computing device at the user location*, ” as recited in claim 11, as amended. For at least this reason, claim 11, as amended is patentable over *Knauerhase*.

In addition, *Donovan* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the limitation of “A system processed by a computing device *at a user location* comprising... second receive logic second receive logic, *processed by the computing device at the user location*, and configured to receive second user input, the *second user input comprising a reference identifier (ID)*, the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact...” as recited in claim 11, as amended. For at least this reason, claim 11, as amended is patentable over *Donovan*.

C. **Claims 7 – 10 and 12 – 19 are Patentable Over *Knauerhase* in View of *Donovan***

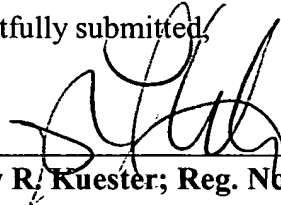
In addition, dependent claims 7 – 10 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 6. Additionally, dependent claims 12

– 19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 11. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 – 19 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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